

STATE SENATOR . MICHAEL PRUSI . 38TH DISTRICT
Prusi Press Release

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**SEN. PRUSI VOTES TO OPPOSE SENATE REJECTION OF GOVERNOR'S
NEW DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

LANSING - Republicans in the Michigan State Senate recently voted unanimously to reject Governor Granholm's Executive Order 14 of 2003, which would create a new Department of Labor and Economic Growth. Senator Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming) opposed the Republican-sponsored measure establishing the new department.

Responding to the Republican rejection of the new department, Prusi said, "I fear that Republicans are throwing the baby out with the bath water by voting to reject this executive order. This is a constitutional prerogative granted to every Governor, and I am sad that we have come to the point where they are protecting political appointees by objecting to the current governor's efforts to streamline state government. Let's move forward with the process. Let's give this Governor the same prerogatives that every Governor for the past 40 years has enjoyed."

No gubernatorial Executive Order reorganizing state government has ever been rejected by the Legislature; however Senate Republicans recently rejected the order due to the reorganization of the politically-appointed members of the worker's compensation appeals process, which is a responsibility of the new department.

The new Department of Labor and Economic Growth (LEG) would combine the regulatory functions of the former Department of Consumer and Industry Services (CIS) and the Department of Career Development. LEG would promote economic growth and job creation in Michigan by centralizing all of the state's job development, workforce development, and economic development functions under one umbrella.

"Under the leadership of Governor Granholm and Director David Hollister, this new department would allow our state to be more nimble and aggressive in job development, attraction, and support," Prusi said. "The new Department of Labor and Economic Growth would help the state spend taxpayer dollars more efficiently by eliminating overlap and duplication of some functions and enhancing the power of others. I encourage the Senate Leadership to work together with the Governor for quick approval of this reorganization."

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Mike Prusi serves as Democratic Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He represents the 38th Senate District, which includes 13 of the 15 Upper Peninsula counties.